



Department of Energy
Bonneville Power Administration
P.O. Box 61409
Vancouver, WA 98666-1409

January 14, 2002

In reply refer to: TNP-TPP-3

**To: People Interested in the Grand Coulee-Bell 500-kV Transmission Line Project
(Eastern Washington Reinforcement)**

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) is proposing to replace approximately 84 miles of an existing 115-kilovolt (kV) transmission line with a 500-kV transmission line between Grand Coulee and Spokane, Washington. This letter briefly explains what is being proposed, outlines our process and schedule, and invites you to meetings where you can comment and learn more. Please pass this letter on to anyone occupying your property such as renters or lessees. You can also call us with the names and addresses so we can mail a copy of the letter and add these people to our mailing list. If you cannot attend these meetings, other ways to be involved and provide input are described below.

Proposal

The proposed 500-kV transmission line would connect from BPA's existing Bell Substation in Spokane to the Bureau of Reclamation's existing Grand Coulee Switchyard at Grand Coulee Dam. The new line would be located primarily on BPA's existing right-of way. The project also would involve expanding Bell Substation and developing Grand Coulee Switchyard within the fenced area.

The project is needed to improve reliability and to support current and future demand for electricity in Washington State and the Pacific Northwest. The transmission line corridor between the Grand Coulee and Bell substations currently contains two 115-kV wood pole and three 230-kV steel lattice transmission lines. Two of the 230-kV lines are double circuited on one set of steel towers. Together, these transmission lines can no longer efficiently move power from generation sources east of Spokane to areas west of Spokane. Replacing one of the 115-kV lines with a 500-kV line will relieve congestion, provide for future growth, and enhance service reliability to the community.

As part of the project, BPA will consult with affected Tribes, conduct environmental studies, and collect public comments. Community input is an integral part of the process, and BPA will seek comments throughout the project.

Public Open House Meetings

We will soon start to assess the project's environmental impacts. But before we do, we would like to hear from you. What questions do you have? What resources should we analyze? We have scheduled three open house public meetings to hear your ideas and questions.

Tuesday, January 29, 2002
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Old Center School Building
(Big Bend Community College)
317 Spokane Way
Grand Coulee, Washington

Wednesday, January 30, 2002
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Davenport Elementary School

1101 7th Street
Davenport, Washington

Wednesday, February 6, 2002
4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Inland Northwest Wildlife
Council Auditorium
6116 N. Market Street
Spokane, Washington

We do not plan to give a formal presentation at the meetings, so please stop by anytime between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Several members of the project team will be available to describe the project, answer questions, and take your comments.

Other Ways to Comment

If you cannot come to one of the meetings, you can still comment. If you comment by **February 15, 2002**, we will be able to incorporate your ideas into our environmental studies. **Please reference the Grand Coulee-Bell project in all communications.** To comment,

- Call BPA's toll-free comment line at 1-800-622-4519, and leave a message;
- Send an e-mail to: comment@bpa.gov; or
- Mail comments to Bonneville Power Administration, Public Affairs Office - KC-7, P.O. Box 12999, Portland, Oregon 97212. You can use the enclosed form to submit comments if you like.

Process and Schedule

The planning process will occur over the next several months and will consist of environmental studies and community involvement. The information we gather in our environmental analysis will be published in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that will be available for review and comment in the spring. If you would like to receive a copy, please return the enclosed postcard and note whether you would like to receive it by regular or electronic mail. If you do not return the postcard, you will still receive notice when the study is available.

Once we have completed the environmental review, BPA will decide whether and how to proceed with the project. If BPA decides to proceed, construction would likely begin in 2003. Based on this schedule, the new 500-kV transmission line would be operating in Fall 2004.

For More Information

If you have any questions about this proposal, please call me toll-free at 1-800-282-3713, at my direct number 1-360-619-6326, or send an e-mail to makorsness@bpa.gov.

Thank you for your interest in our work.

Sincerely,

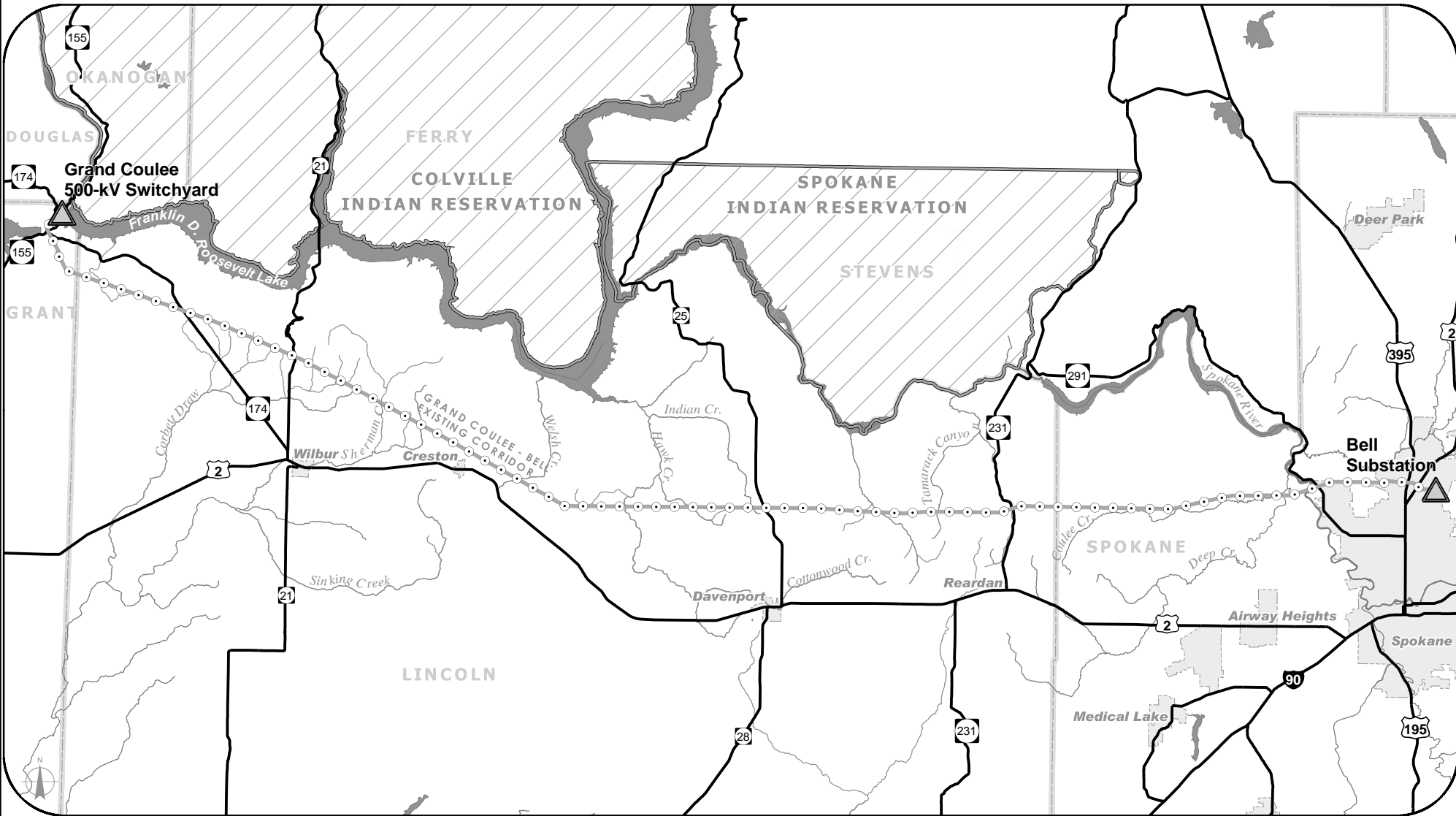
Mark Korsness
Project Manager

3 Enclosures:
Map
Post Card
Comment Form

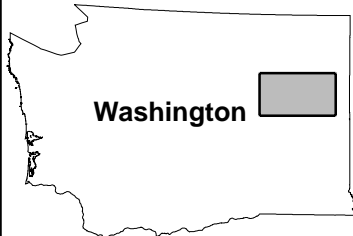
GRAND COULEE - BELL 500-kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT

(EASTERN WASHINGTON REINFORCEMENT)

LOCATION MAP



Map Location



Grand Coulee-Bell Corridor



Mile Marker



Substation or Switchyard



Major Road



COUNTY BOUNDARY



Indian Reservation



City or Town

0 3 6 12 Miles

0 4 8 16 Kilometers

SCALE 1:485,000

Data Source: U.S.G.S Digital Line
Graphs, Bonneville Power Administration
Regional GIS Database.

